Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for controlling and operating a vending machine ~~(1)~~ that incorporates a mobile radiocommunication transmit/receive unit and can be called from a user's mobile telephone ~~and~~ unit ~~(7)~~ over a mobile telephone network ~~(8)~~ via an ~~(~~abbreviated~~)~~ mobile telephone number affixed on the vending machine, comprising: ~~wherein~~

upon receipt of a call from the user's mobile telephone unit to the abbreviated mobile telephone number on the vending machine, establishing a connection to a bank and determining if the user has an account at that bank, and if so, whether there are sufficient funds in the user's account,

if the user has an account and there are sufficient funds, prompting, via the vending machine ~~(19), prompts~~ the user to select ~~the~~ a merchandise item, ~~and,~~

after the merchandise item has been dispensed, ~~generates~~ generating, a billing entry in the vending machine, and

~~characterized in that~~ settling the billing entry ~~is settled~~ via a payment gateway ~~(4)~~, the step of settling comprising ~~that has access to~~ accessing ~~a mini-payment~~ the user's account ~~the user has opened with a bank (5)~~, and determining the ~~mini-payment~~ account number ~~of which is determined~~ based on the user's mobile telephone number.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein charging ~~of~~ for the dispensed merchandise item takes place by combining standard IN traffic control with standard ~~{~~Internet~~}~~ payment systems.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to ~~any of the above claims~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

determining the actual telephone number of the vending machine ~~(1) is determined~~ in an ~~IN-SCP~~ intelligent-network control point~~(2)~~, ~~and~~

establishing a connection from the intelligent-network control point to the payment gateway ~~(4) is established~~, and

issuing a request ~~is issued~~, with a reference to the vending machine ~~(1)~~, to reserve a certain maximum amount on the mini-payment account of the user who has been uniquely identified based on his telephone number.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to ~~any of the above claims~~claim 3, ~~characterized in that,~~ further comprising:

when sufficient funds exist on the mini-payment account, making the reservation of the certain maximum amount with the reference to the telephone number of the vending machine ~~(1), is made and~~

positively ~~acknowledged~~ acknowledging the reservation in the ~~IN-SCP~~ intelligent-network control point~~(2)~~, and

holding the reserved ~~funds~~ amount unavailable ~~are not available~~ for other payments until ~~they have~~ the reserved amount has been cleared.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to ~~any of the above~~

~~claims~~claim ~~4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

~~_____~~if the acknowledgement from the payment gateway ~~(4)~~ is positive, informing, via the intelligent-network control point ~~IN-SCP (2)~~, ~~informs the~~ ~~MSC~~ a mobile switching center ~~(8)~~ of ~~the~~ an unabridged telephone number ~~of~~ for the vending machine (1), ~~that~~

~~_____~~establishing ~~the MSC (8) establishes~~ a voice connection, via the mobile switching center, to the vending machine ~~(1)~~, ~~that~~

~~_____~~identifying, in the vending machine ~~(1) identifies~~, from the ISDN signal, the telephone number of the user, and

~~_____~~ wherein the step of prompting ~~prompts~~ the user, via the vending machine, to select ~~an item of~~the merchandise item comprises prompting the user in such a way that the user communicates with the automatic vending machine ~~(1)~~ via his mobile telephone unit ~~(7)~~, ~~that~~

~~_____~~wherein after the user is prompted to select a merchandise item, ~~subsequently~~ the GSM connection between the user and vending machine is initiated by the vending machine, ~~that~~

~~_____~~wherein when the user presses a selection button, ~~that~~ the ~~item of~~ selected merchandise item is dispensed, and

~~_____~~wherein the step of generating a billing entry comprises causing the vending machine ~~(1) generates~~ to generate an electronic billing entry.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to ~~any of the above~~ ~~claims~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the billing entry includes the vending machine telephone number, the GSM user's telephone number, a merchandise identification and the

price.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to ~~any of the above~~ claims claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising transmitting the billing entry ~~is transmitted~~ by the vending machine ~~(1)~~ to the payment gateway ~~(4)~~ via a GSM short message or GSM-USSD.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to ~~any of the above~~ claims claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

receiving ~~the payment gateway (4) receives~~ the electronic billing entry at the payment gateway,

determining, at the payment gateway ~~determines~~, based on the GSM telephone number of the user, ~~his~~ the mini-payment account of the user, and,

recognizing and clearing, at the payment gateway, based on the vending machine telephone number, ~~recognizes and clears~~ the reservation previously made by the ~~IN-SCP~~ intelligent-network service control point ~~(2)~~, ~~during which process~~

wherein the step of recognizing and clearing comprises:

debiting the cost ~~for~~ of the merchandise item ~~is debited~~ to the user's account, and

~~credited~~ crediting the cost of the merchandise item to ~~the~~ an account of the vending machine operator via a credit entry.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to ~~any of the above~~ claims claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising controlling the vending machine ~~(1) is controlled~~ by a voice connection.

10. **(New)** A method for activating and operating and automatic vending machine, which has a mobile radio telephone transmitting/receiving device and can be called from a mobile radio telephone terminal of the user via a mobile radio telephone call number installed on the machine via a mobile radio telephone network, comprising:

requesting, via the automatic vending machine upon receipt of a call from a user to the mobile radio telephone call number, that a maximum amount of money be reserved from a user's bank account in a bank,

processing the reservation via a payment gateway connected to the bank comprising:

determining whether the user has a mini-payment account set up at the bank using the mobile radio telephone call number of the user;

accessing the mini–payment account of the user to determine if the user has sufficient credit to pay the voucher;

determining, at an intelligent network service control point of the mobile radio telephone network, an actual call number of the automatic vending machine;

producing a connection from the intelligent network service control point to the payment gateway;

sending a request from the intelligent network service control point to the payment gateway for a reservation for said maximum amount to be held in the mini–payment account of the user identified by the user's call number;

if there is sufficient credit, processing, by the payment gateway, the reservation and sending a positive acknowledgement to the intelligent network service control point;

if there is not sufficient credit, or if the user does not have an account at the bank, sending a negative acknowledgment from the payment gateway to the intelligent network service control point,

upon receipt of the negative acknowledgement by the intelligent network service point, sending an instruction from the intelligent network service point to the mobile switching center to terminate the call; and

upon receipt of the positive acknowledgment by the intelligent network service control point:

sending an instruction from the intelligent network service point to the mobile switching center of the actual call number of the automatic vending machine,

causing the mobile switching center to initiate a voice connection to the automatic vending machine;

prompting, by the automatic vending machine, the user to select an item; and

ejecting the item at the automatic vending machine in response to the selection.

11. **(New)** The method according to claim 11, wherein billing for the item issued takes place by coupling standard intelligent network traffic control to standard

Internet payment systems.

12. **(New)** The method according to claim 11, wherein if there is sufficient credit in the mini-payment account the reservation relating to the call number of the automatic vending machine is carried out in positively acknowledged to the intelligent network service control point, wherein the reserved amount is not available for other payments until the reservation has been canceled.

13. **(New)** The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

upon receipt of the positive acknowledgment, extracting, by the automatic vending machine, the user's call number from the ISDN signaling,

wherein the user communicates with the automatic vending machine via the user's mobile telephone and accordingly the GSM connection between the user and the automatic vending machine is triggered by the automatic vending machine, and

wherein after the item is ejected, the automatic vending machine produces an electronic billing entry.

14. **(New)** The method according to claim 13, wherein the electronic billing entry contains the machine call number, the GSM user call number, an item identifier, and the price.

15. **(New)** The method according to claim 13, further comprising transmitting the electronic billing entry from the automatic vending machine to the payment gateway using a GSM short message or a GSM unstructured supplementary service data.

16. **(New)** The method according to claim 15 further comprising:

when the payment gateway receives the electronic billing entry from the automatic vending machine:

using the user's GSM call number to determine the user's mini-payment account;

using the automatic vending machine call number to identify and cancel the reservation previously reserved by the intelligent network service control point;

debiting an amount equal to a price of the item from the user's mini-account; and

crediting said amount to the account of the automatic vending machine operator via a credit note.

17. **(New)** The method according to claim 11, wherein the automatic vending machine is activated via a voice connection.

18. **(New)** A method for controlling and operating a vending machine having a mobile radiocommunication transmit/receive unit and configured to be called from a user's mobile telephone unit over a mobile telephone network via an abbreviated mobile telephone number affixed on the vending machine, comprising:

upon receipt of a call from the user's mobile telephone unit to the abbreviated mobile telephone number on the vending machine, establishing a connection to a bank and determining if the user has an account at that bank, and if so, whether there are sufficient funds in the user's account,

if the user has an account and there are sufficient funds, prompting, via the

vending machine, the user to select a merchandise item,

after the merchandise item has been dispensed, generating, a billing entry in the vending machine, and

settling the billing entry via a payment gateway, the step of settling comprising accessing the user's account, determining the user's account number based on the user's mobile telephone number, debiting the user's account by an amount equal to the price of the item, and crediting an account for the automatic vending machine by said amount.

19. **(New)** The method according to claim 18, wherein the electronic billing entry contains the machine call number, the GSM user call number, an item identifier, and the price.

20. **(New)** The method according to claim 18, further comprising:

if the user does not have an account, there are insufficient funds, or the user is on a black list, terminating the call between the automatic vending machine and the user's mobile telephone unit.